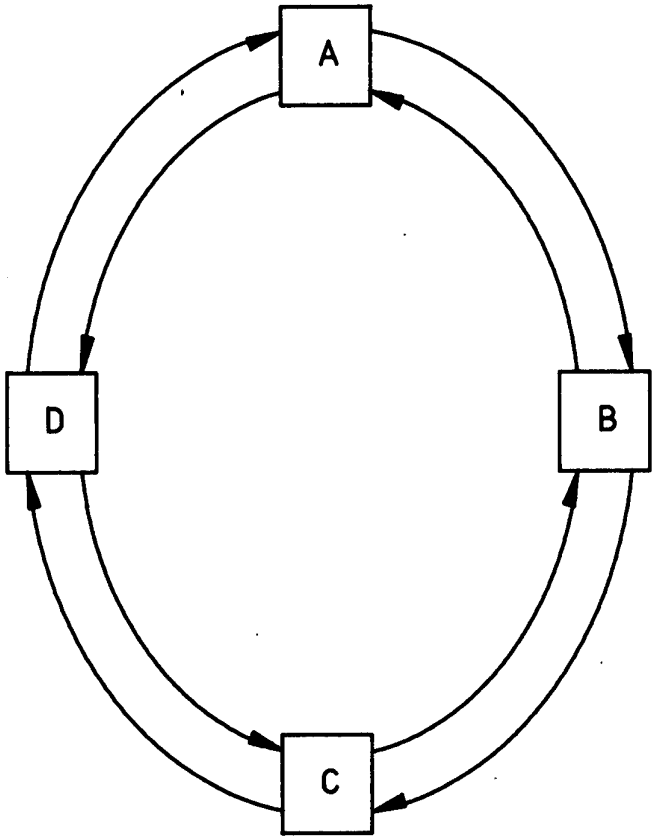

FIG. 1a
(PRIOR ART)

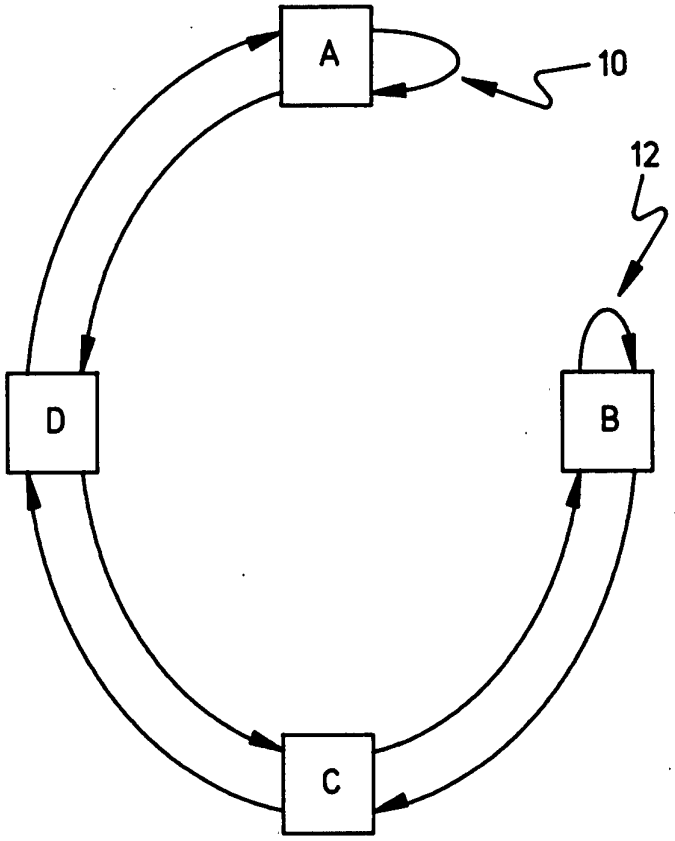

FIG. 1b
(PRIOR ART)

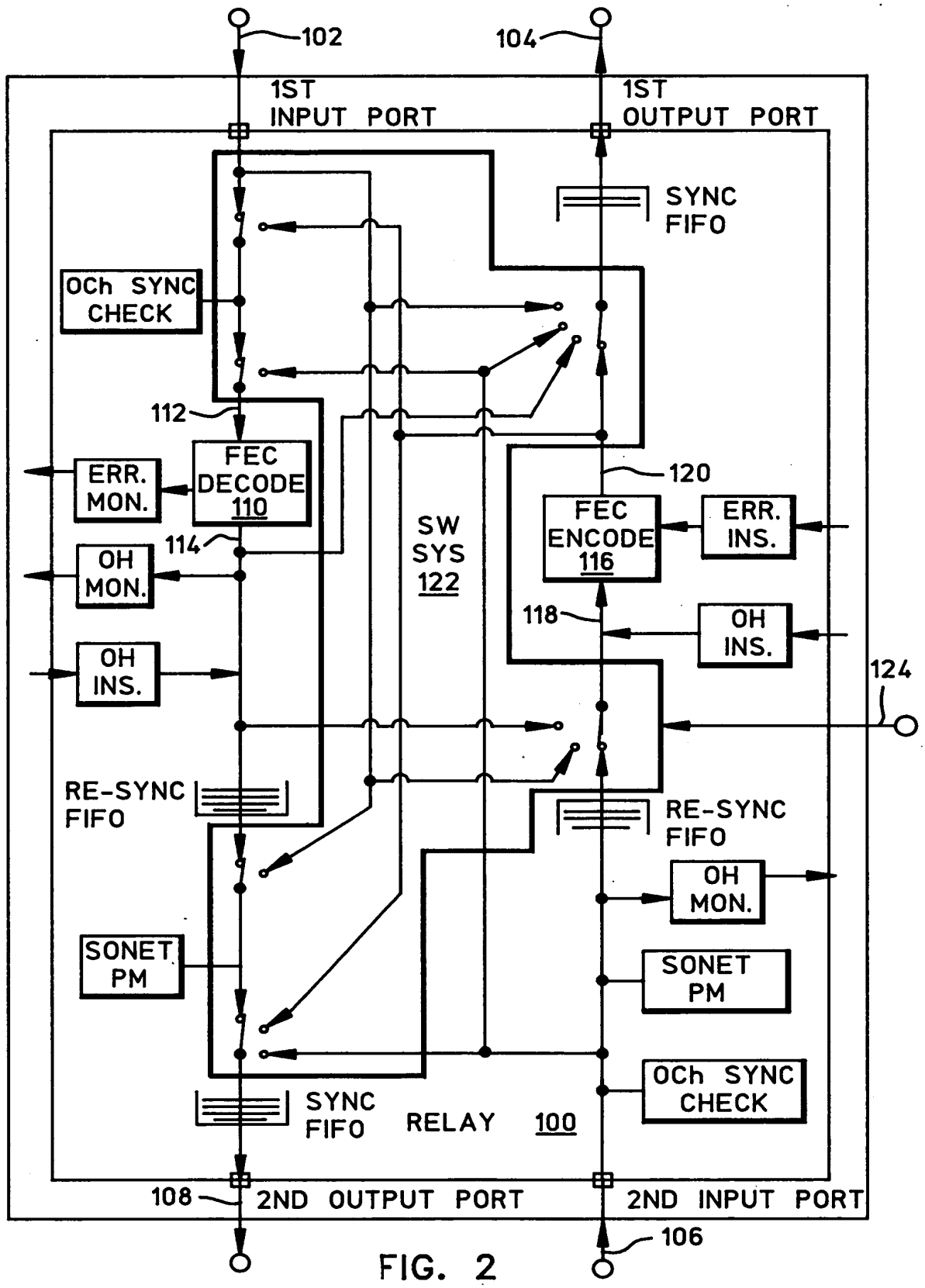
102
104
1ST
INPUT PORT
1ST
OUTPUT PORT
SYNC
FIFO
OCh SYNC
CHECK
112
FEC
DECODE
110
ERR.
MON.
114
OH
MON.
OH
INS.
SW
SYS
122
120
FEC
ENCODE
116
ERR.
INS.
118
OH
INS.
124
RE-SYNC
FIFO
RE-SYNC
FIFO
OH
MON.
SONET
PM
SONET
PM
OCh SYNC
CHECK
SYNC
FIFO
RELAY
100
108
2ND OUTPUT PORT
2ND INPUT PORT
106

FIG. 2

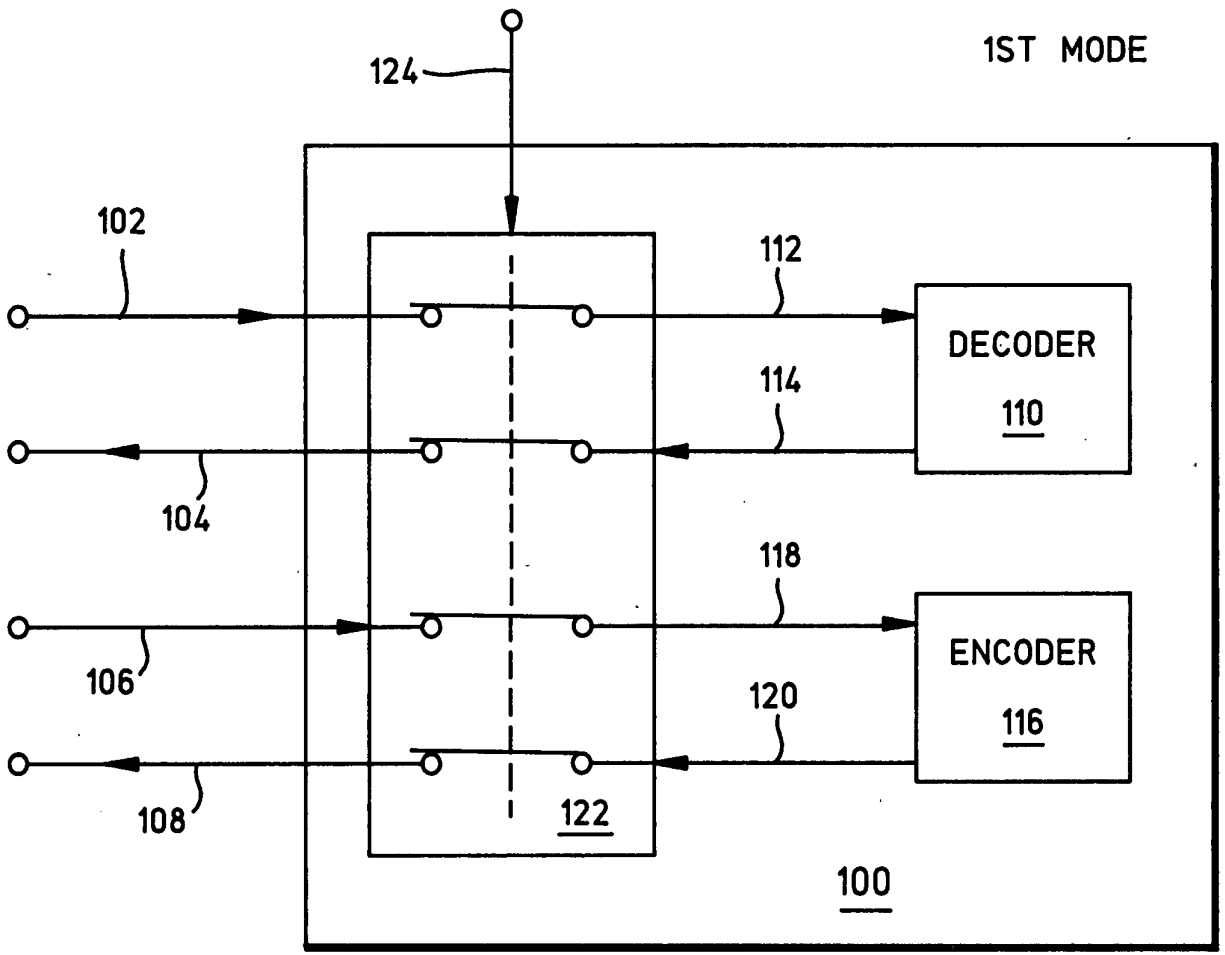

FIG. 3

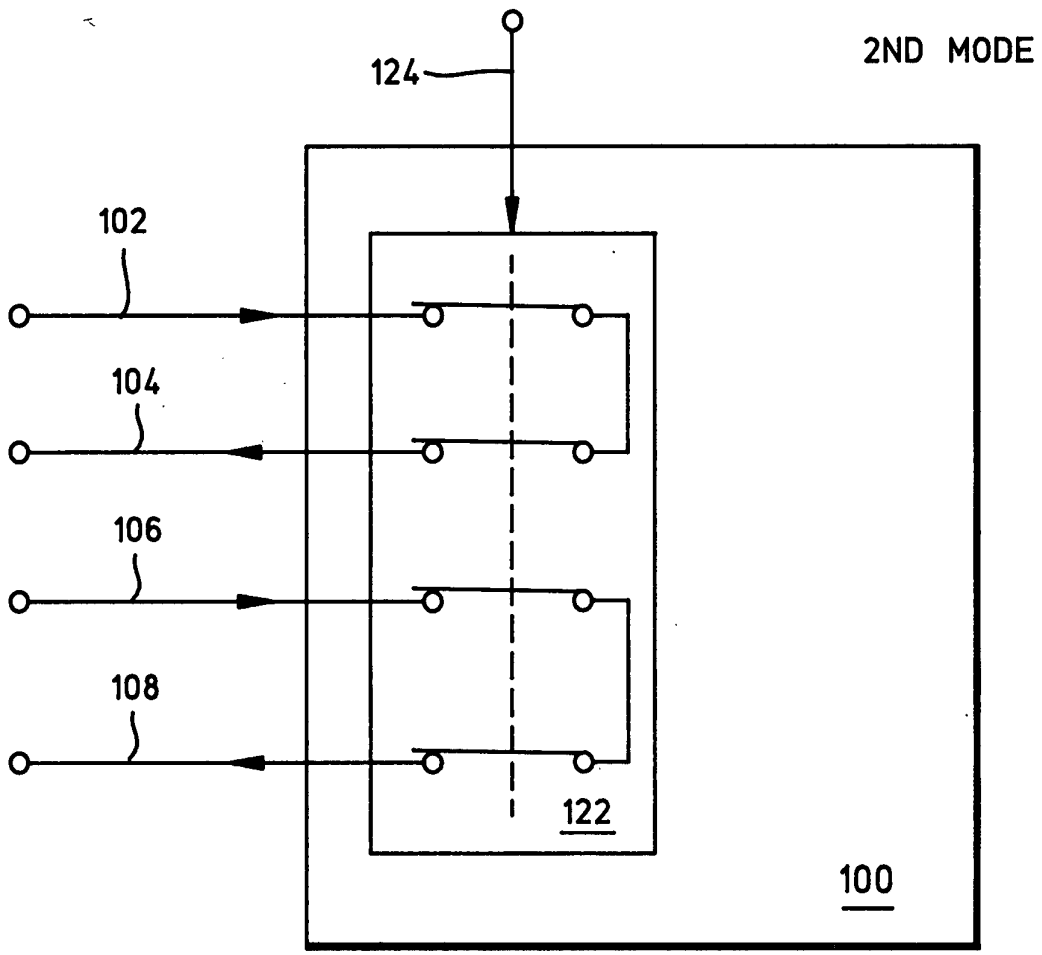

FIG. 4

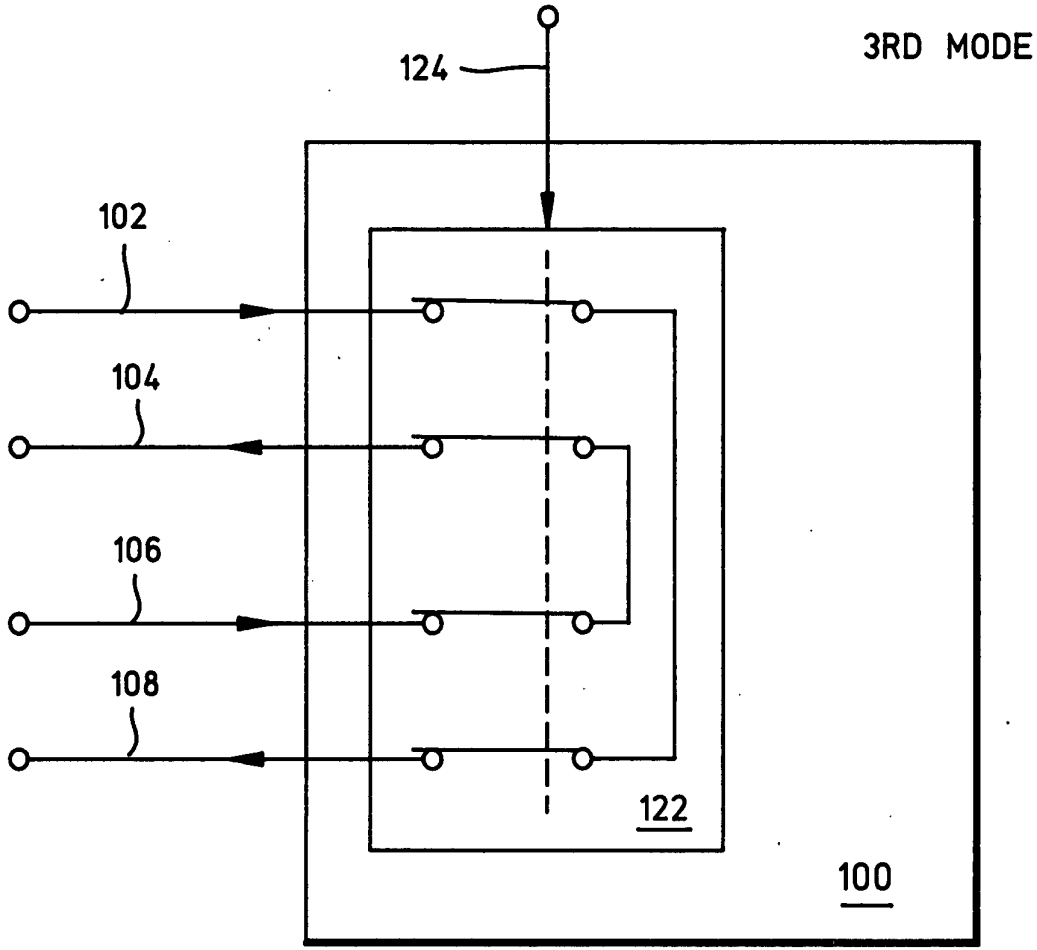

FIG. 5

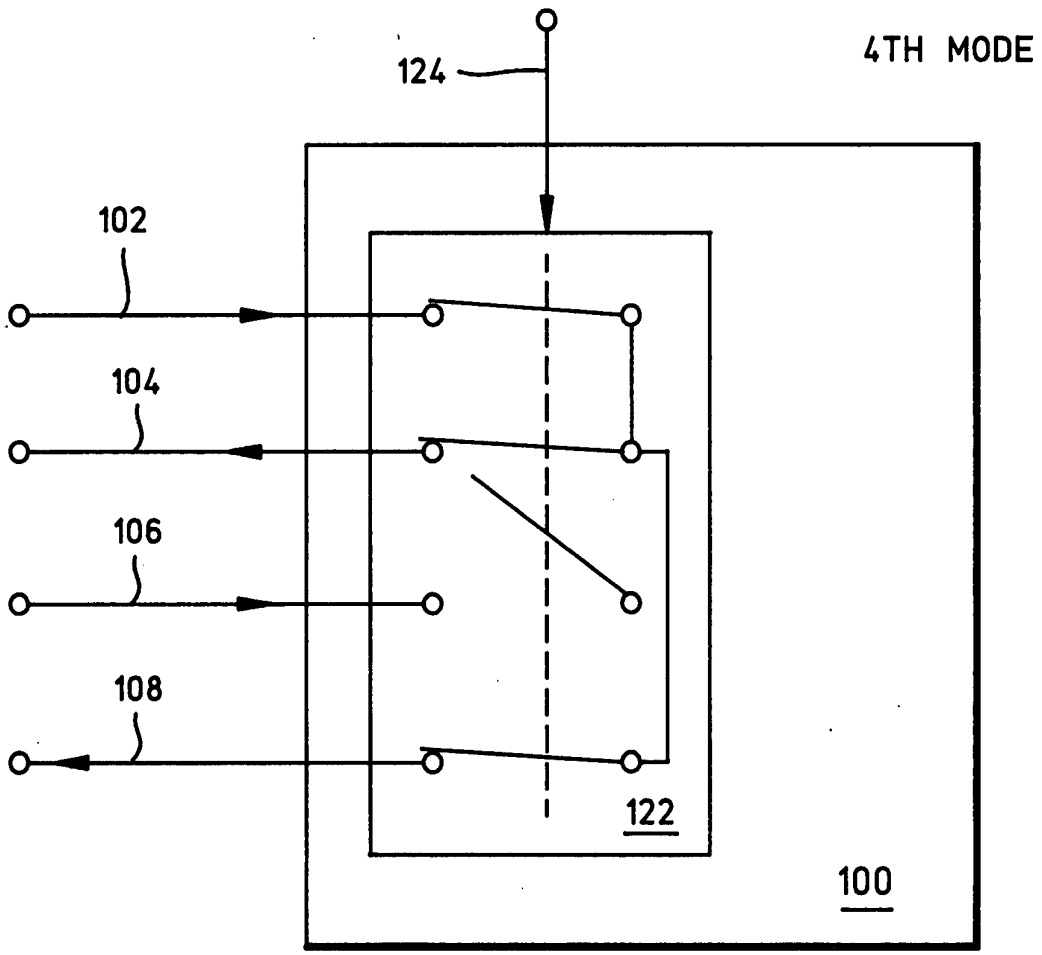

FIG. 6

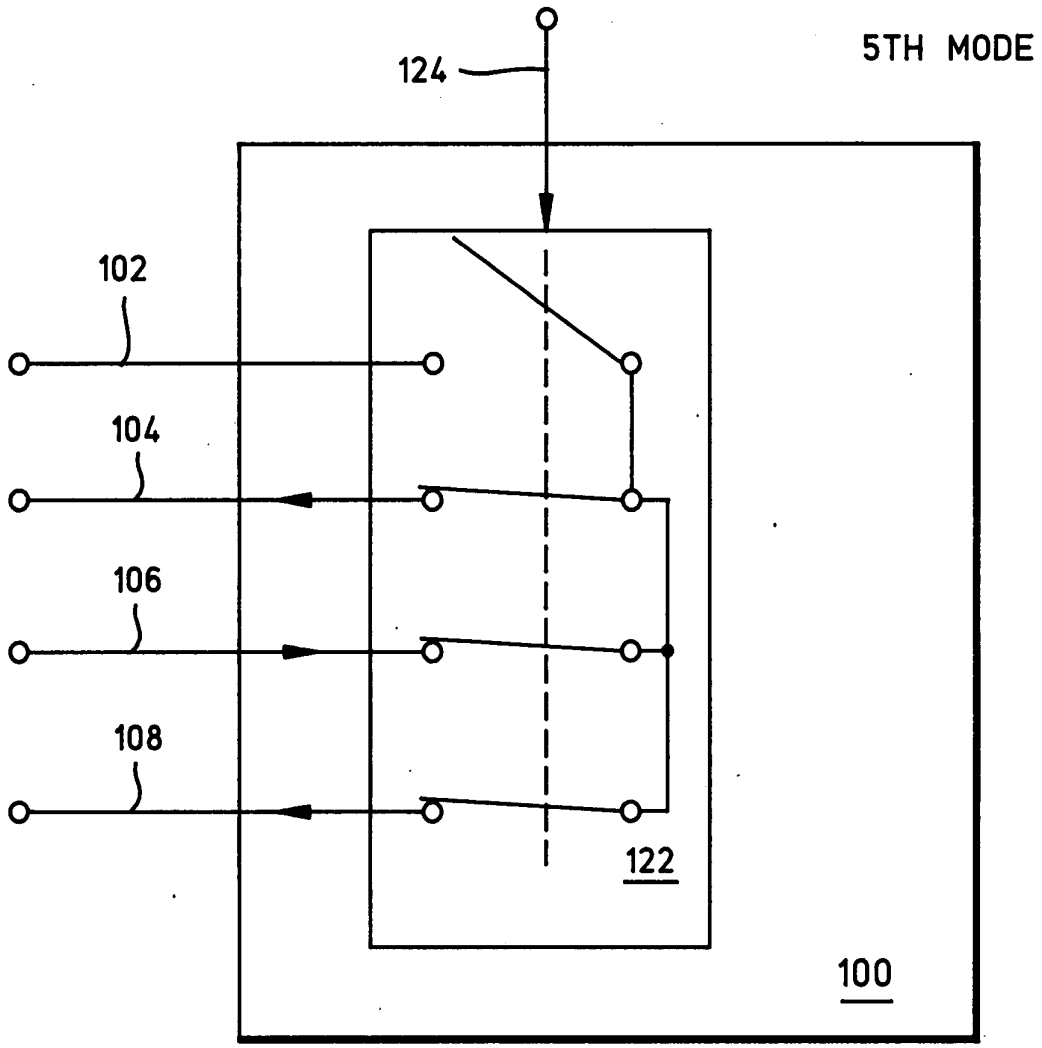

FIG. 7

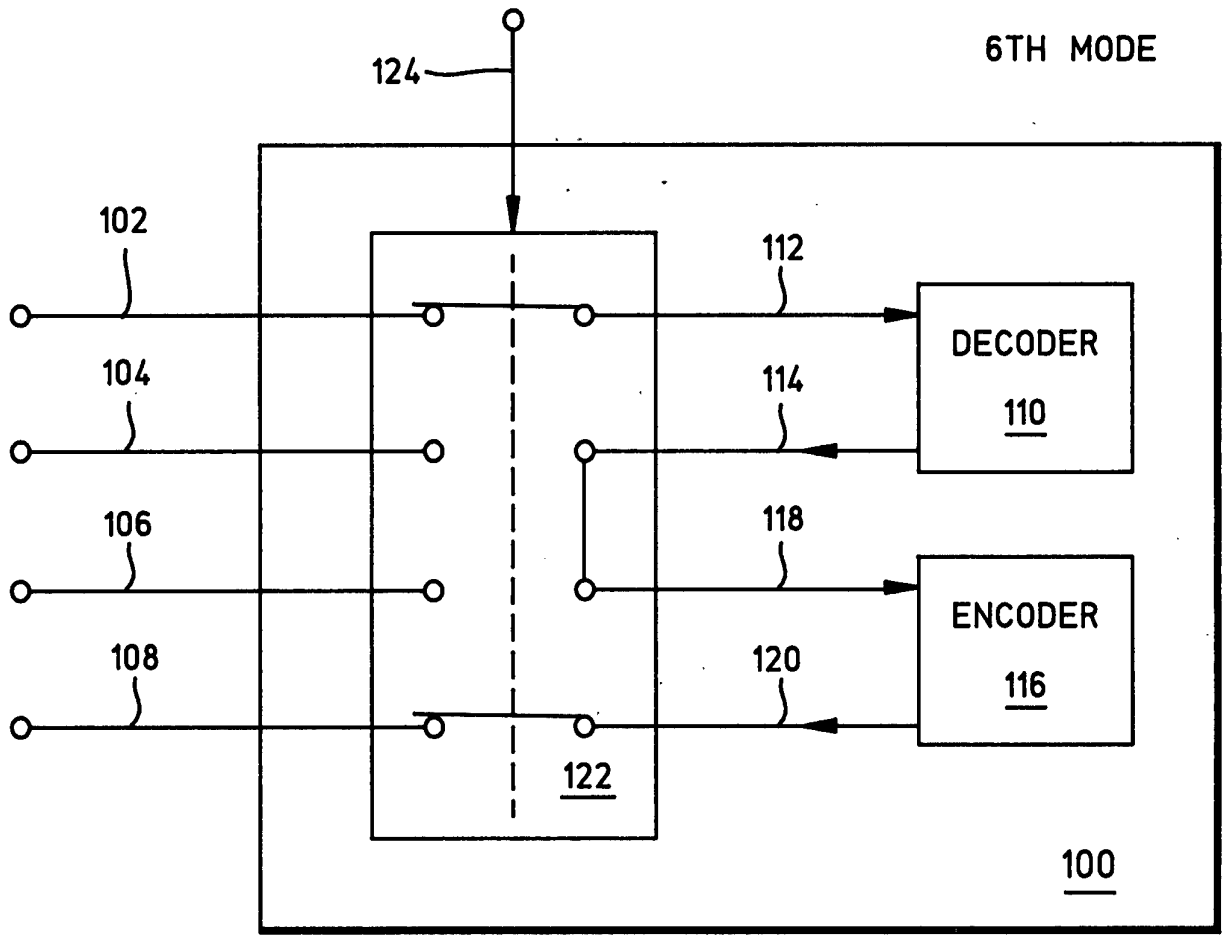
6TH MODE
124
102
104
106
108
112
114
118
120
DECODER
110
ENCODER
116
122
100

FIG. 8

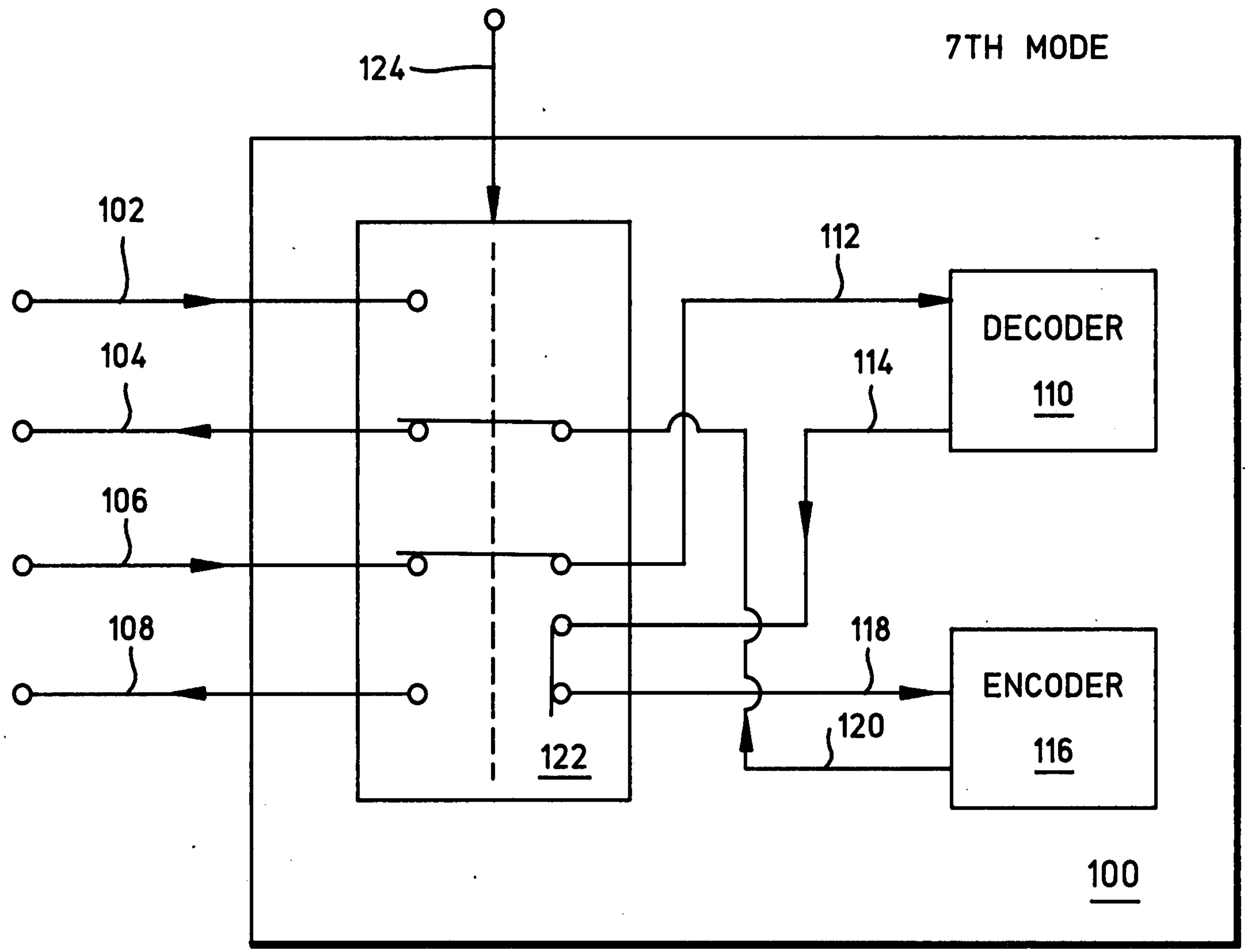
7TH MODE
124
102
104
106
108
122
112
114
118
120
DECODER
110
ENCODER
116
100

FIG. 9

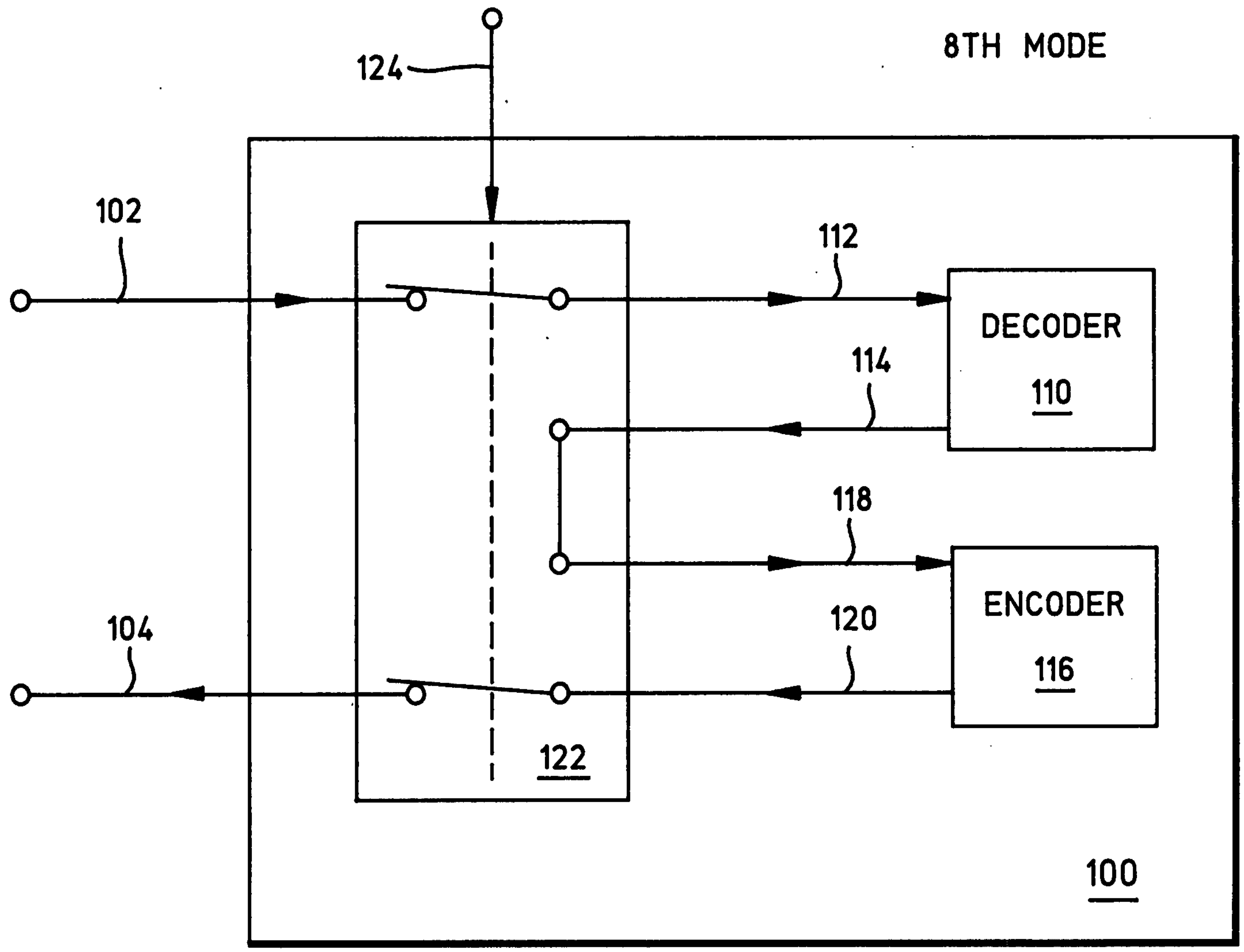
8TH MODE
124
102
112
DECODER
110
114
118
ENCODER
116
104
120
122
100

FIG. 10

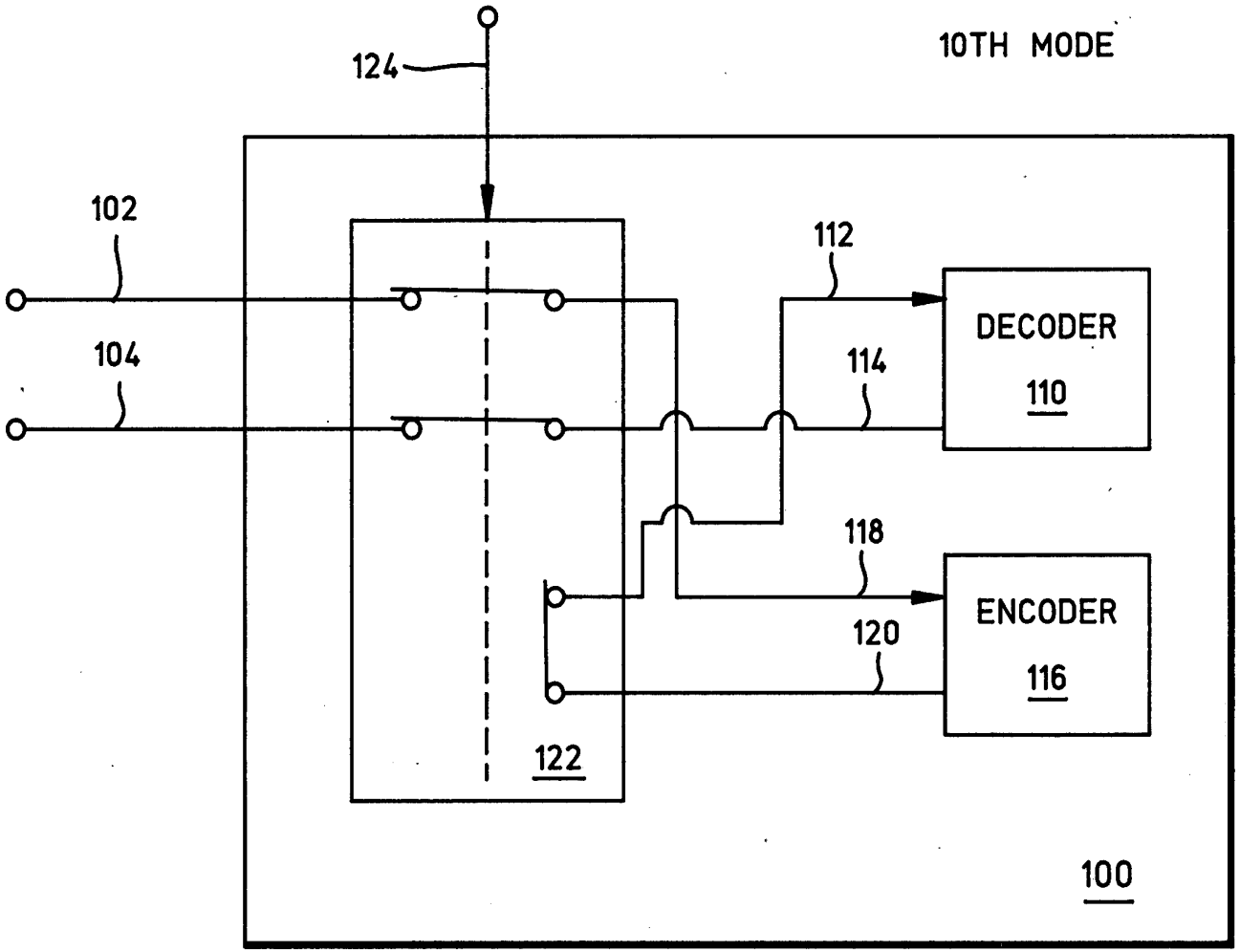
10TH MODE
124
102
104
112
114
DECODER
110
118
120
ENCODER
116
122
100

FIG. 11

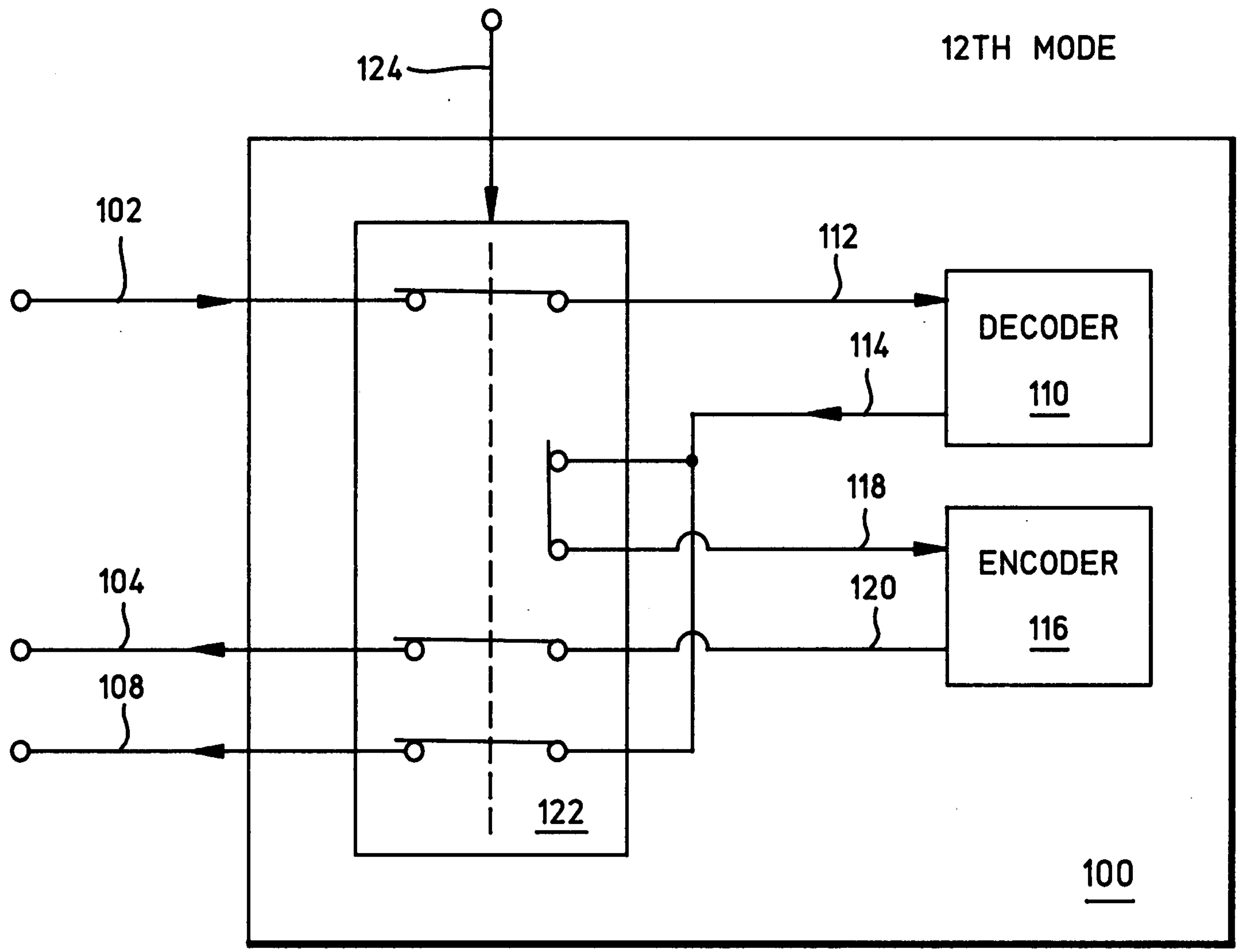
12TH MODE
124
102
112
DECODER
110
114
118
ENCODER
116
104
120
108
122
100

FIG. 12

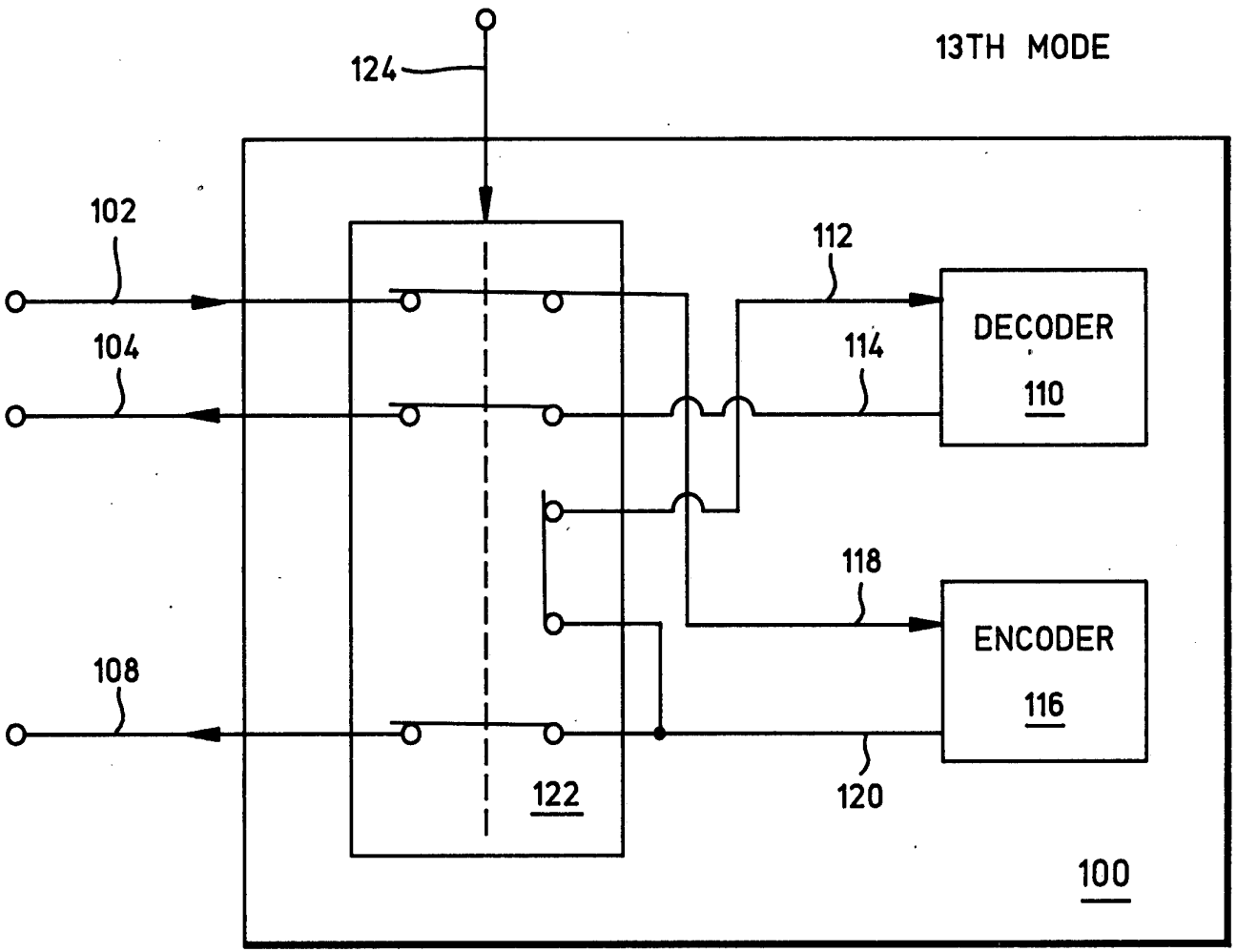
13TH MODE
124
102
104
108
112
114
118
120
122
DECODER
110
ENCODER
116
100

FIG. 13

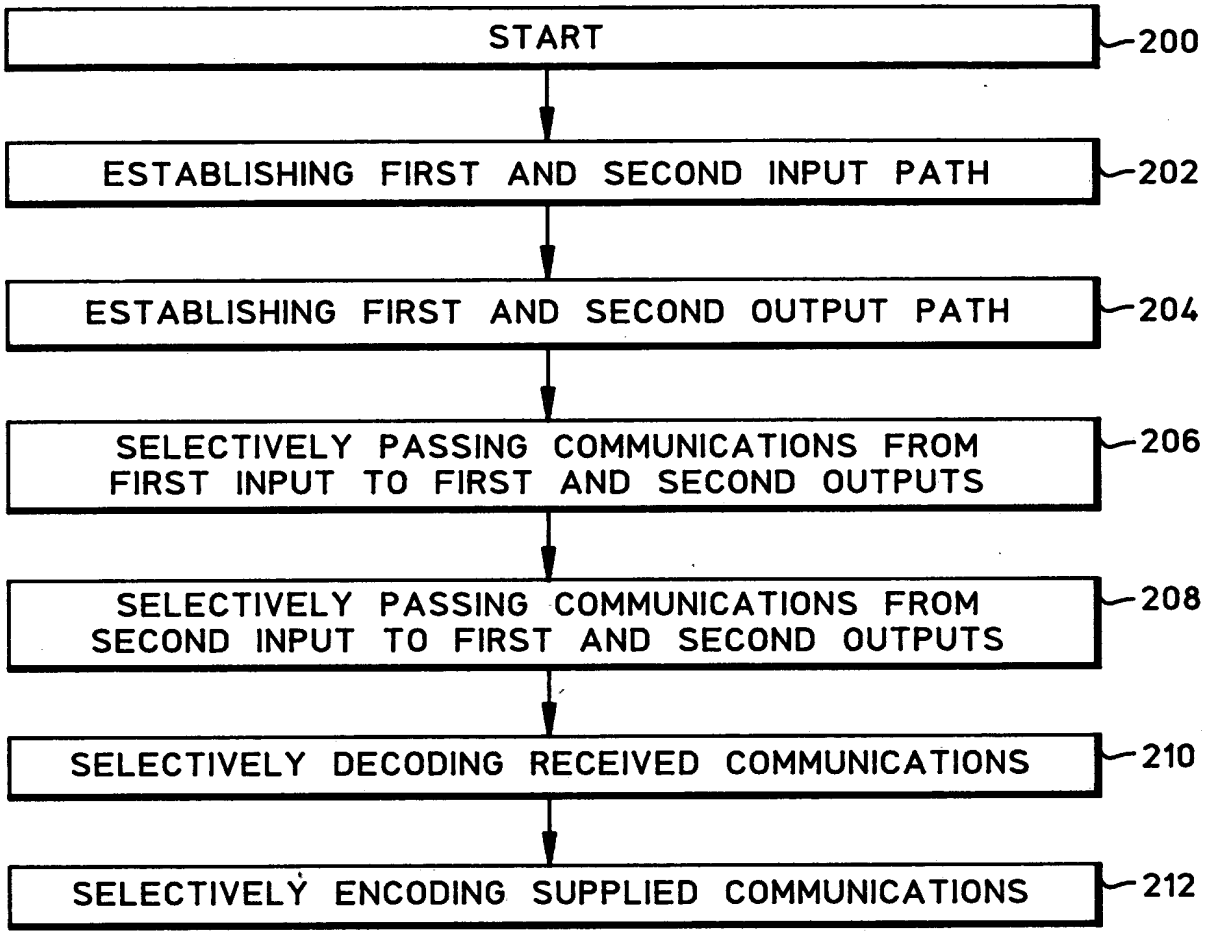
START
200
ESTABLISHING FIRST AND SECOND INPUT PATH
202
ESTABLISHING FIRST AND SECOND OUTPUT PATH
204
SELECTIVELY PASSING COMMUNICATIONS FROM FIRST INPUT TO FIRST AND SECOND OUTPUTS
206
SELECTIVELY PASSING COMMUNICATIONS FROM SECOND INPUT TO FIRST AND SECOND OUTPUTS
208
SELECTIVELY DECODING RECEIVED COMMUNICATIONS
210
SELECTIVELY ENCODING SUPPLIED COMMUNICATIONS
212

FIG. 14

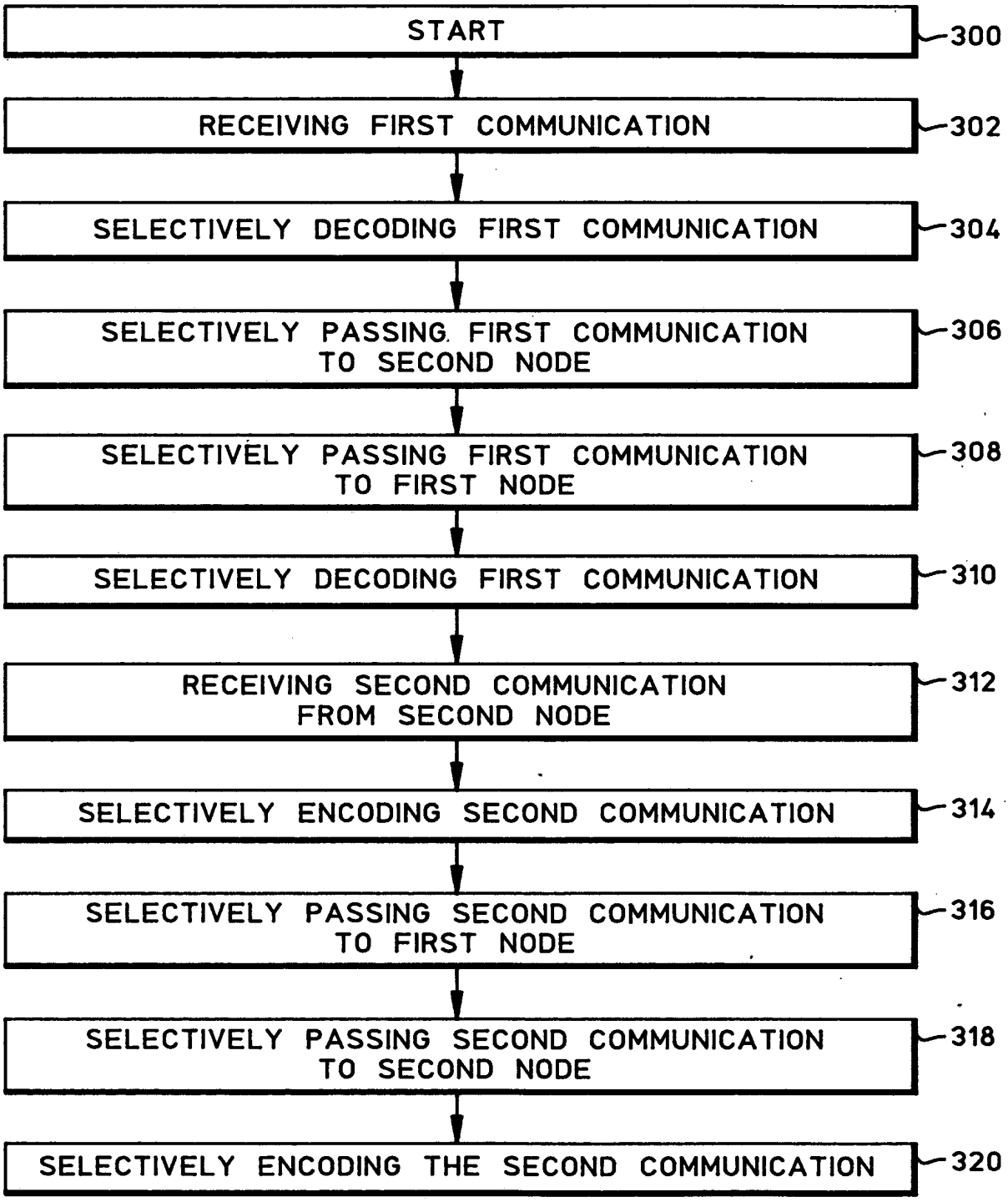
START
300
RECEIVING FIRST COMMUNICATION
302
SELECTIVELY DECODING FIRST COMMUNICATION
304
SELECTIVELY PASSING FIRST COMMUNICATION TO SECOND NODE
306
SELECTIVELY PASSING FIRST COMMUNICATION TO FIRST NODE
308
SELECTIVELY DECODING FIRST COMMUNICATION
310
RECEIVING SECOND COMMUNICATION FROM SECOND NODE
312
SELECTIVELY ENCODING SECOND COMMUNICATION
314
SELECTIVELY PASSING SECOND COMMUNICATION TO FIRST NODE
316
SELECTIVELY PASSING SECOND COMMUNICATION TO SECOND NODE
318
SELECTIVELY ENCODING THE SECOND COMMUNICATION
320

FIG. 15